

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 /024 W
-----061922 121646Z /47

O R 121523Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3631
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 6549

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC, USIA
WASHDC SEPT 12 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE
UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN
USIA FOR IOP/M, ILA, IBS/PL, IPS/PL

EO 11652: N/A

PART ONE OF TWO

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY--SEPT. 10 AND 11 MEDIA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO
SEPT. 9 RALLY WELCOMING GEN. TORRIJOS HOME FROM WASHINGTON, AS
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WELL AS DEVOTING FEATURE ITEMS AND SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS TO TREATY
SIGNING CEREMONY ITSELF. ALL PAPERS BOTH DAYS PRINT LARGE
FRONT PAGE PHOTOS, MANY COLOR, OF RALLY, ESTIMATED CROWD AT
BETWEEN 150,000 AND 275,000, PLUS FULL INSIDE PHOTO PAGES.
HEADLINES INCLUDED SEPT. 10 CRITICA'S, "O. TORRIJOS RECEIVED
AS A HERO; MORE THAN 250,000 PANAMANIAN ACCLAIM LEADER,"
AND SAME DAY'S MATUTINO'S BANNER RED INK HEAD, "MASSIVE SUPPORT

FOR OMAR TORRIJOS; ALMOST 300,000 PERSONS JAM CENTER OF PANAMA CITY." STORIES DESCRIBED EVENTS AT RALLY, AND ALL PAPERS INCLUDED TEXTS OF TORRIJOS AND LAKAS SPEECHES, AS WELL AS TEXT OF PRES. CARTER LETTER, READ TO CROWD BY TORRIJOS.

2. SEPT. 10 SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA, HAILING RALLY, SAYS, "IF ANYONE IN THE US HELD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT UNQUESTIONABLE AND AUTHENTIC LEGITIMACY OF THIS GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT DEVELOPED NOT FROM BALLOT BOX, BUT FROM REVOLUTION OF OCT., 1968, YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATION COULD CERTAINLY DISSIPATE THEM." ESTRELLA CALLS TREATY "WORK OF PANAMANIAN PEOPLE," AS WELL AS OF GEN. TORRIJOS, BUT TORRIJOS, "AS CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL LEADER, KNEW HOW TO GIVE DIRECTION TO AN ANCIENT DESIRE... FOR THIS REASON, IF ANY DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR A LEADER WAS FULLY JUSTIFIED, IT WAS YESTERDAY'S."

3. SEPT. 10 CRITICA EDIT HAILS RALLY AS SUPPORT FOR "NEW TREATIES WHICH CONSITUTE BEGINNING OF THE END OF COLONIALIST ERA IN PANAMA SO THAT LUMINOUS STAGE OF LIBERATION CAN BE UNDERTAKEN." CRITICA REVIEWS MAIN POINTS OF TORRIJOS SPEECH, INCLUDING "THAT MAGNANIMOUS GESTURE TOWARD ZONIANS, WHOM WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND BECAUSE THEY DO NOT COMPREHEND THAT THIS PIECE OF LAND THEY BELIEVE TO BE US PROPERTY DOES NOT BELONG TO THEM. WE'RE ALL FOR CAPACITY OF FORGIVENESS, BUT LET'S BE ALERT. THERE IS NO SMALL ENEMY."

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4. TREATY SIGNING CEREMONY AND "WEEK OF PANAMA" CONTINUE TT GET FULL PLAY. SEPT. 9 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA AND SEPT. 11 DOMINICAL PRINT SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS WITH PHOTOS AND FEATURE STORIES ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK. OTHERS, INCLUDING SEPT. 11 LA ESTRELLA GIVE WHOLE PAGES TO CEREMONY, AND FEATURES ON IT. ESTRELLA ALSO CARRIES EIGHT-COLUMN COLOR PHOTO FRONT PAGE SEPT. 10 OF CARTER AND TORRIJOS SIGNING TREATY. SEPT. 11 ESTRELLA PRINTS ENTIRE SPANISH TEXT OF TREATIES AND ANNEXES.

5. DOMINICAL SEPT. 11 CALLS PAST WEEK "TRANSCENDENTAL," DURING WHICH "NAME AND IMAGE OF PANAMA CONSTITUTED MOST IMPORTANT NEWS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF THE WORLD...WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7, CAN STAND OUT AS TRULY HISTORIC DAY IN CALENDAR...A DAY OF TRIUMPH FOR PANAMANIAN DIPLOMACY."

6. DOMINICAL COLUMNIST GRISELDA LOPEZ SAYS SHE WAS PROFOUNDLY IMPRESSED BY IMAGES OF TREATY SIGNING. AFTER SIGNING, SHE SAYS, SHE WAS ABLE TO WATCH TV NEWS BROADCASTS OF EVENT: "IN DOME, THEY PRESENTED WORDS OF CARTER AND THEN THOSE OF GENERAL, BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS TRANSMITTED RALLIES ORGANIZED BY FURIOUS US SENATORS WHO HAVE TAKEN OPPOSITION TO TREATY AS BATTLE CRY FOR NEXT ELECTIONS. MANIPULATING PUBLIC OPINION A LITTLE IN SOME

OF THESE CHANNELS, THEY ESPECIALLY INTERVIEWED THOSE WHO ARE
OPPOSED, THOSE WHO WERE ANGRY, BECAUSE THEY HAD RECEIVED TRUTH
SMACK IN THE FACE." LOPEZ CONTINUES "I THINK MANY LATAM LEADERS
ENVIED US FOR BEING ABLE TO SPEAK WITH CLEAR VOICE AND
CONSCIENCE. STUPIFIED FACES OF OUR LUKEWARM FRIENDS WERE
EVIDENCE OF THAT; SMILING, OPEN FACES OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALWAYS
COLLABORATED WITH US SHOWED SOLIDARITY, SATISFACTION AND PRIDE."

7. SEPT. 10 MATUTINO COLUMNIST LUIS RESTREPO REFLECTS ON GROWING
PRESTIGE OF PANAMA, AND SUPPORT FROM OTHER NATIONS, RECOGNIZING
"TRIUMPH OF THE REPUBLIC, WHICH HAS TAKEN A FIRM STEP TOWARD
TOTAL LIBERATION, AND IF WE MUST STILL TRAVERSE PART OF THE
STONY ROAD, THE DISTANCE WILL BE SHORT AND SURELY...FOLLOWING
GENERATIONS WILL HAVE DEFINITELY ELIMINATED THOSE VESTIGES WHICH
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REMAIN."

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ACTION ARA-14

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O R 121523Z SEP 77
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INFO PANCANAL
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8. MATUTINO SEPT. 10 EDIT LIKENS TREATY PROCESS TO "TIME MACHINE,"
SINCE "YESTERDAY, FOR PANAMA AND US, WAS FULL OF MUTUAL DISSATIS-
FACTIONS AND CONFLICTS, OF CONFRONTATIONS AND DISPUTES...BUT
TIME MACHINE CONTINUES WORKING, "AND THINGS HAVE CHANGED, ALLOW-
ING TWO NATIONS TO REACH AGREEMENT, THANKS IN LARGE PART TO
"POSITIVE FIGURES", SUCH AS TORRIJOS, CARTER, NEGOTIATORS AND
LAKAS. FOR OTHER PEOPLE, HOWEVER, EDIT CONTINUES, TIME MACHINE
WORKS DIFFERENTLY, AND "REMAINS STATIONARY, AS IF MINUTE HAND
OF NATIONS HAD NOT MOVED. TO THIS GROUP, FOR EXAMPLE, BELONGS

RONALD REAGAN...HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN WHETHER SOMETHING IS TRUE OR NOT; FOR HIM IT IS ENOUGH TO OPEN HIS MOUTH AND LET MODULATIONS OF HIS VOICE COME OUT. HE THINKS THAT, AS IN HIS OLD FILMS, EVERYTHING CAN BE ARRANGED THROUGH A TRICK OF THE CAMERA, WHETHER IT BE FOR FILMS OR LEGISLATION."

9. SEPT. 11 ESTRELLA EDIT ADVANCES SUGGESTIONS THAT OPPOSITION SENATORS, SEEING THEIR CAUSE IS LOST, WILL ATTEMPT TO THROW "OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS" SUCH AS FILIBUSTERS IN PATH OF TREATY TO PREVENT ITS COMING TO A VOTE: "IF SUCH A THING HAPPENS, WE WOULD KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE TREATY HAS NECESSARY CONSENSUS FOR RATIFICATION, AND THAT REACTIONARY, OBSTINATE AND RECALCITRANT ELEMENTS CONSTITUTE ONLY...MINORITY IN US SENATE... WE WANT TO REITERATE OUR FIRM CONFIDENCE THAT TREATY WILL SOON BE RATIFIED AND BY A NUMBER OF VOTES NOTABLY SUPERIOR TO NUMBER NEEDED." SEPT. 11 ESTRELLA ALSO RANS PAGE TWO IPS NICK UNCLASSIFIED

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HARRISON ARTICLE ON CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FALL, WHICH INCLUDES MENTION OF TREATY.

10. SEPT. 10 MATUTINO COLUMNIST RICARDO LINCE SAYS THAT WITH TREATY SIGNING "SITUATION PROVOKED BY COLONIAL ENCLAVE IN PANAMA IS ENDING. AN ALERT US DIPLOMACY, WHICH ANTICIPATES FACTS, UNDERSTOOD THAT IT COULD NOT MAINTAIN A NATION IN SUCH A REPULSIVE SITUATION, AND OPTED TO REMEDY IT WITH NEW AGREEMENTS WHICH BURIED SO MUCH ABJECTION AND IGNOMINY..."

11. SEPT. 11 ESTRELLA COLUMNIST ELEODORO VENTOCILLA DEVOTES LONG COLUMN TO US-PANAMANIAN RELATIONS, BEGINNING WITH THOUGHTS ON US PRESIDENCY: "US PRESIDENCY IS ONE OF THE FEW TRULY SATISFACTORY INSTITUTIONS CREATED BY MAN TO ACHIEVE FREE AND STABLE GOVERNMENT. IN 200 YEARS, IT HAS NOT BEEN A VICTIM OF A COUP, EVEN THOUGH FOUR PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN ASSASINATED...ULTIMATE STRENGTH OF PRESIDENCY RESIDES IN FACT THAT IT IS AN INSTRUMENT OF LIBERTY."

12. VENTOCILLA CALLS SIGNING CEREMONY AND WEEK OF PANAMA, "MOST OUTSTANDING AND SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EVENT IN HISTORY OF WASHINGTON," AND SAYS IT MARKS "NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN THE AMERICAS TO REPLACE SO-CALLED INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM." VENTOCILLA REVIEWS HISTORY OF US-LATAM RELATIONS, AND SAYS THEY HAVE CHANGED: "US HAS LEFT BEHIND MONROEISM, HAS PASSED FROM ISOLATION TO COSMOCRACIA. AND THIRD WORLD HAS APPEARED...(AS FOR) SOVIETS, AS ALL ORGANISMS WHICH DO NOT CHANGE...THEIR PRESENT POLICY WILL DIE FROM INDIFFERENCE OF NEW GENERATIONS AND HOSTILITY OF UNIVERSAL POLITICAL CLIMATE. IN CONTRAST, AMERICANS ARE PROVING WITH PRES. CARTER, THEIR CAPACITY TO DETERMINE OR PARTICIPATE IN INEVITABLE HISTORIC CHANGES. THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED IT BY GIVING JUSTICE OF PANAMA."

13. VENTOCILLA QUOTES FROM TEXT OF PRES. CARTER'S MAY 22 NOTRE

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DAME SPEECH, AND SAYS THAT WITH THESE IDEAS, "PRES. CARTER
PROPOSED TO CREATE GREATER STRUCTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION, IN ACCORD WITH NEW HISTORIC CIRCUMSTANCES." COLUMN
CONCLUDES, "GEN. TORRIJOS HAS LIVED UP TO HIS PROMISE; HE HAS
ENTERED THE CANAL ZONE AND WILL ALSO ENTER, WITH DIGNITY, INTO
HISTORY. PRES. CARTER HAS GIVEN HIS PEOPLE, OVERWHELMED BY
DEFEATS OF VIETNAM AND WATERGATE, A CLEAN MORAL VICTORY." ITEM
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC ATTITUDES, TREATY SIGNATORIES, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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